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Presbyterian Board of Home Missions

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 8, 1894.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MANDERSON, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 870.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 870) entitled "A bill authorizing the issue of a patent to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for certain lands on the Omaha Indian Reservation for school purposes," having had the same under consideration with the accompanying papers, report it back favorably with an amendment, and recommend its passage.

The Presbyterian Board of Home Missions has maintained a mission school on the Omaha Indian Reservation in Nebraska for nearly forty years. The building at present occupied for school purposes is old and inadequate to the growing needs of the school, and the location on the bank of the Missouri River is remote from railroad communication and difficult of access. As stated in the preamble to the bill, the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions agree to relinquish their title to the land now used for mission purposes and receive in lieu thereof a quarter section of land of more desirable location, on which they propose to erect a school building at a cost of \$7,500, to be maintained for the education of the youth of the Omaha and neighboring Indian tribes.

This agreement, a certified copy of which is attached hereto, has received the unanimous approval of the council of the Omaha Indians, and has the recommendation of Capt. W. H. Beck, U. S. Army, acting agent for the Omaha Indians.

The amendment proposed by your committee merely changes the manner of describing the land relinquished by the Indians to make it similar to the form of description in use by the General Land Office. The bill as amended in committee is as follows:

A BILL authorizing the issue of a patent to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions for certain lands on the Omaha Indian Reservation for school purposes.

Whereas the location of the old mission school on the Omaha Indian Reservation, in the State of Nebraska, has become unsuitable for school purposes, and it being necessary to replace the building thereon by such as shall be more convenient and commodious, the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions propose to relinquish all claims to the land situate in section twelve, township twenty-five, range nine east of the sixth principal meridian, on said reservation, in the State of Nebraska, occupied for mission purposes for nearly forty years; and

Whereas the Omaha Indians, in consideration of said relinquishment and the promise of said board to erect on a proposed new site a building, to be used for school purposes, of the value of seven thousand five hundred dollars, for the benefit of the children and youth of the Omahas, have agreed to relinquish to said board

all their right and title in and to the following-described land, for the purpose above named, to wit: The southwest quarter of northeast quarter, and west half of southeast quarter, and northeast quarter of southeast quarter of fractional section numbered twenty-nine, township twenty-five, range eight east, of the sixth principal meridian, on said Omaha Reservation, in Thurston County, Nebraska: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States of America is hereby authorized and directed to issue to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions a patent for the following-described land, to wit: The southwest quarter of northeast quarter, and west half of southeast quarter, and northeast quarter of southeast quarter of fractional section numbered twenty-nine, township twenty-five, range eight east of the sixth principal meridian, on the Omaha Indian Reservation, in Thurston County, Nebraska, containing one hundred and sixty acres, more or less.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AGREEMENT OF OMAHA INDIANS.

We, the councilmen of the Omaha Indians, being in council assembled at Omaha Agency, Nebr., do hereby accept and agree to the following articles of agreement:

Whereas the location of the mission school on the Omaha Reservation has become unsuitable for the purpose and the buildings need to be replaced by such as shall be more convenient and commodious, the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions propose to relinquish the section of land occupied for mission purposes for nearly forty years; and

Whereas the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions desire to erect suitable buildings for the future maintenance of the school in a new and more convenient location, said school to be for the benefit of the children and youth among the Omahas and those in the neighboring tribes; and

Whereas the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions propose that, for the land relinquished, they may be allowed to select a quarter section of unallotted land in any part of the reservation, said quarter section of land to be selected as may seem to be for the best good of the school; and

Whereas in the relinquishing all claim upon the land where the school is now located the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions does not relinquish claim upon the old buildings or fences, any or all of which may be serviceable in the establishment of a new mission school.

Therefore, we, the chief head men of the Omaha Indians, on the Omaha Reservation, in the State of Nebraska, do hereby give our consent and sign our names to the following agreement, to wit: That we give to the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, in exchange for land now occupied by their mission school, a quarter section of land, to be hereafter selected from unallotted tribal land, said land to be for the purpose of building a mission school upon our reservation.

And further, if a quarter section of land now allotted should be exchanged by an individual member of the tribe for land now occupied by the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, said exchange being ratified by the Government, we do hereby signify our willingness and agreement to such an exchange.

And we further agree, for and in the name of the Omaha tribe of Indians, to give up all right and title to said quarter section of land to be hereafter selected for ourselves and our heirs forever.

In accordance with this agreement, we hereby affix our names and seals this 13th day of May, 1893.

FIRE CHIEF. x
PA HA GA MONE. x
WHITE HORSE. x
PRARIE CHICKEN. x
LITTLE CHIEF. x
BIG ELK. x
CIN DA HA HA. x
TWO CROWS. x

Witnesses to x marks:

H. A. HOBBS.
LOUIS NEALS.
THOS. MCCAULY.
THEO. KELLEY.
W. K. MORRIS.

I, Silas Wood, interpreter for the Omaha tribe of Indians, have interpreted the above agreement, and know that they fully understood it.

SILAS WOOD.

At a meeting of the Omaha council, held at the Omaha Mission School August 7, 1893, the foregoing agreement was ratified by the council, unanimously, and the SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N. $\frac{1}{2}$, and W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. $\frac{1}{2}$, and NE. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. $\frac{1}{2}$, section 29, township 25, range 8 east, of the sixth principal meridian were designated and agreed to by them as the land selected upon which to locate said Mission School. Total amount of land thus designated is one hundred and sixty acres, more or less.

The Omaha council selected the undersigned as interpreter, and I certify that the above was clearly and fully explained to them, and that they thoroughly understood the entire matter.

OMAHA MISSION SCHOOL, August 7, 1893.

JOHN PITCHER.

The above described council was witnessed by us and we assisted at the interpreting.

Omaha Mission, August 7, 1893.

SILAS WOOD.

HENRY FONTENELLE.

OMAHA AND WINNEBAGO AGENCY, Aug. 8th, 1893.

I certify on honor that the foregoing agreement, signed by Fire Chief, Pa ha ga mone, Ga ha nin ga, White Horse, Prairie Chicken, Little Chief, Big Elk, Cin da ha ha, and Two Crows, dated the 13th of May, 1893, was presented by me to them at a council called by me on the 7th day of August, 1893, for ratification, and for action upon the land selected under the agreement; that the council unanimously ratified the agreement, and sanctioned the selection as described above. It being understood that the Presbyterian Home Mission erects a school building to cost \$7,500 and to put forward no claim for the land occupied and used by the Omaha Mission School at this time.

I recommend that the land designated herein, one hundred and sixty acres, more or less, be secured to the Presbyterian Home Mission for the purpose named.

WM. H. BECK,

Captain Tenth Cavalry, Acting Indian Agent.

SEWARD, NEBRASKA, August 15th, 1893.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the agreement signed by the chief men of the Omaha Indians regarding land for the Omaha Mission School.

THOMAS L. SEXTON,

Synodical Missionary, Synod of Nebraska.

